

EXHIBIT C

July 14, 2016

US Department of State
Washington DC

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

I am an American historian and biographer. I won the Pulitzer Prize in 2006. My current project is a biography of President Jimmy Carter. You can learn more about my work as an historian at the web site listed below.

I wish to request a cable sent from the US embassy in Madrid, Spain to the State Department in the time period July 1, 1980 – August 31, 1980; the cable reports on or mentions briefly the visit to Madrid of a private citizen, William J. Casey, or “Bill Casey,” who at the time was the campaign manager for the Republican Party’s presidential nominee, Ronald Reagan.

The cable in question would shed light on the allegation that William J. Casey made a trip to Madrid, Spain in July 1980 to meet with an Iranian representative of Ayatollah Khomeini. You may recall that a Congressional Task Force on the October Surprise investigated these issues in 1991. The Task Force, chaired by Congressman Lee Hamilton, came to no firm conclusions.

But now some intriguing evidence has emerged that strongly indicates that Mr. Casey, a private citizen at the time, did indeed travel to Madrid. See the attached November 4, 1991 memo from Paul Beach, then a Deputy Counsel in the White House. This document was recently found in the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. Mr. Beach refers to the discovery of “a cable from the Madrid embassy indicating that Bill Casey was in town, for purposes unknown.”

I would like to obtain a copy of this cable from the U.S. embassy in Madrid. The language in the Beach memo document suggests the item was in a daily or weekly report of some kind from the Embassy, rather than a cable dedicated just to Casey’s visit. It may therefore be easily found in the State Department’s embassy cable database.

The U.S. ambassador to Spain at the time was the late Terrence Todman.

A simple search of cable traffic from the Madrid embassy for the above dates might be sufficient to retrieve this document. On the other hand, copies of any such cables relevant to the 1991 Congressional investigation of the October Surprise may have been consolidated by

Edward Williamson, the State Department counsel at the time. So a search of Mr. Williamson's papers from the autumn of 1991 might prove to be a shortcut to retrieving the cable.

The Madrid embassy cable in question is now nearly thirty-six years old. The cable in question was reporting about the travels of a private U.S. citizen who died in 1987—so there are no privacy issues at stake. The cable was probably unclassified at the time it was sent.

Because I will be publishing the information contained in this State Department cable in my forthcoming biography of President Jimmy Carter I respectfully request an “expeditious” search as specified in the FOIA regulations. Publication of this document would greatly contribute to the public’s understanding of what happened during the 1980 Iran hostage crisis. My book project is under contract with Crown Books, a division of Random House.

With appreciation,

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November 4, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: PAUL BEACH
SUBJECT: Meeting With Ed Williamson - October Surprise

I began the meeting by indicating that we were in the process of considering what arrangements, if any, should be made to ensure that we have an accountable focal point to keep the President informed regarding issues and information of significance as the October Surprise investigations request and receive Executive Branch information. I noted that one option would be to have a "lead agency" exercise this responsibility, and another would be to have it performed centrally. I solicited Ed's views.

Ed responded first by describing State's document collection efforts to date. He noted that document collection should be completed by the end of this week, and that documents seem to fall into three categories:

- material potentially relevant to the October Surprise allegations. In this regard, Ed mentioned only a cable from the Madrid embassy indicating that Bill Casey was in town, for purposes unknown.
- Operation Staunch material.
- Israeli material.

Ed indicated that State was being careful to identify NSC and interagency equities, and intended to coordinate directly with the agencies concerned before producing such material. He also indicated that State is notionally organizing its material at three levels: materials which can be produced; materials which will be shown only to members and staff, but not produced; and materials which will be shown only to senior members. He did not indicate that such a division was the product of any agreement with the Hill.

With regard to process, Ed then made these points:

- Secretary Baker intends to exercise decision authority over privilege issues related to State Department documents.